

Dear Sir/Madam:

Having made a considerable investment to equip my car and office with XM radio in the past year, I am deeply concerned about the heightened pressure being exerted by local broadcasters on the FCC to restrict its station offerings. This is an outrage. Americans who elect to purchase satellite receivers and pay for a monthly service as an alternative media should not be denied full access to programs and services offered to paying subscribers!

The local traffic updates and weather reporting without other programming interruptions or commercials throughout the continuous broadcast of this crucial information poses absolutely no overlap of a competing local broadcaster's offering.

Just having unfettered updates on local Chicago traffic conditions affords me with the opportunity to make instant decisions on alternate routes which I wouldn't be able to take advantage of with commercials running for 3-4 minutes at a time.

If XM Radio were broadcasting local radio broadcasts from each metro area (similar to satellite TV providers who offer local channel access over their satellite service), then it might be appropriate to charge subscribers a fee for local access. But XM Radio is not providing a re-broadcasting of local radio programming.

The FCC should reject the argument waged by local radio broadcasters that XM Radio poses a threat to their livelihood. This traffic/weather service provided by XM without commercial interruption is a value add offering innovation that commercial sponsored broadcasters have not been willing to subsidize on a national basis. XM Radio could easily have chosen to not make this offering available to its subscribers. Instead, they have chosen to subsidize this unique broadcast service.